

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Specification Objection

The Examiner requested an updated status identification of the present matter. The applicant agrees and amended the specification accordingly to identify the present matter as a divisional application of issued U.S. Pat. No. 6,645,446.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected claims 25-31 and 37-38 as reciting functional process limitations and therefore failing to further limit the scope of the claims. With respect to claims 25-31, the applicant respectfully disagrees and points to corresponding claim language in the issued parent. If claims 25-31 as presently pending should still present a problem, the undersigned requests a telephone call from the Office to identify agreeable claim language.

With respect to claims 37-38, the applicant agrees and amended the claims to positively narrow the claimed apparatus structure.

35 USC § 112

Claims 26-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reciting pressure ranges inconsistent with the pressure limitations to the claim from which they depend. The applicant agrees and canceled claims 26-27.

In view of the present amendments and arguments, the applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

RUTAN & PUCKER

By 

Martin Fessenmaier, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,697
Tel.: (714) 641-5100